



LA SOTTO VOCE

The Official Newsletter of the *Columbia Association*

Fire Department, City of New York

IN THIS ISSUE

Man of the Year



Humanitarian Award



Special Recognition Award



Spring Cigar Night



Credit Score Means...

THE COLUMBIA ASSOCIATION 2011 Man of the Year William De Blasio PUBLIC ADVOCATE CITY OF NEW YORK



On November 3rd, 2009, Bill de Blasio was elected New York City's third Public Advocate. For the prior eight years, de Blasio served in the New York City Council where he fought to make City Hall more responsive and accountable to New Yorkers.

Bill de Blasio began his work in New York City government as an aide to Mayor David Dinkins. During the Clinton Administration, de Blasio was appointed Regional Director for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, where he served under former Secretary Andrew Cuomo. In 1999, de Blasio was elected to the School Board for District 15 in Brooklyn. In 2000, he managed Hillary

Rodham Clinton's successful campaign for U.S. Senate. The following year, de Blasio was elected to the New York City Council where he represented District 39 in Brooklyn for eight years.

In the City Council, Bill de Blasio fought to improve and protect public education and child care. In the spring of 2008, de Blasio organized a successful coalition of elected officials, parents, students, and advocates to win back millions of dollars in classroom funding slated for cuts.

De Blasio has also been a dedicated advocate for affordable housing, sponsoring a City law that prevents landlords from discriminating against tenants who depend on Section 8 vouchers to help pay for housing.

As the Chair of the Council's General Welfare Committee, Bill de Blasio spent the past eight years working to protect New York City's most vulnerable populations, including children and the homeless.

Bill de Blasio holds a Bachelors degree from New York University and a Masters in International and Public Affairs from Columbia University. De Blasio and his wife, Chirlane McCray, met while working together in the Dinkins Administration. They live in Brooklyn with their two children, Chiara and Dante.

Vist Our Online Store & Shop For Official FDNY Columbia Association Merchandise.
All Proceeds Benefit The Columbia Association Scholarship Fund.
www.fdnycolumbia.com

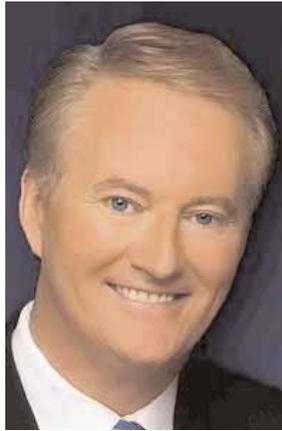


HUMANITARIAN AWARD

to Be Presented
to Journalist

LARRY MENDTE

Pix 11 Commentator



Larry Mendte writes, produces and delivers a news commentary every night for PIX11 News at 10 in New York. The commentaries also air at Tribune TV stations across the country.

Mendte's commentaries have been credited with helping to pass the 9/11 First Responder's Health and Compensation Bill. For his efforts, Mendte has been named an honorary board member of The Fealgood Foundation, the leading advocacy organization for the heroes of 9/11.

Mendte recently returned from Libya after travelling with former Congressman Curt Weldon on his peace mission. Mendte was the only journalist permitted to sit in on negotiations between Weldon's delegation and the government to end the Libyan crisis. His reporting was quoted by news organizations around the world.

One of the nation's most honored broadcasters, Mendte this year won two New York Emmy awards for his PIX commentaries, giving him a total of 84 regional Emmy awards for his 30 years in broadcasting. He also has 12 Edward R. Murrow Awards, a National Sigma Delta Chi Award and dozens of other local and national journalism awards.

Mendte comes to New York from Philadelphia, where he was the 6 and 11 PM anchor at KYW, a CBS station. He is a member of The Broadcast Pioneers of Philadelphia's Hall of Fame. Mendte earned 40 of his regional Emmy Awards in Philly, a record four of them in the "Best Anchor" category. From the anchor desk and in the field, Mendte has covered some of the nation's biggest stories of the past decade. He was on the air for several days in a row helping the area through the pain and panic of 9/11. He anchored live from Washington, D.C. for the Clinton Impeachment hearings and for the funeral of Ronald Reagan. Mendte also has anchored coverage from the Super Bowl, the Olympics, the World Series and the NBA Championships. His special assignments have also included the Republican National Convention in Philadelphia and live coverage from the Benjamin Franklin Parkway during the historic Live 8 concert.

In 2005, Mendte received several awards from Veterans groups for a series of reports that prompted the city to re-light Philadelphia's Eternal Flame in honor of the nation's war dead. It had been extinguished for more than a decade. His work on behalf of the Eternal Flame was honored on the floor of the United States Senate that year and is now part of the Congressional Record.

Mendte is also an accomplished documentary film maker. His documentary Alex Scott: A Stand for Hope, about the little girl who started the Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation before she died at the age of 8, won over 20 film festivals across the country and was the inspiration for a yearly telethon. Larry hosted the telethon and produced several touching stories about children with cancer. The telethons have raised over three million dollars to fight pediatric cancer.

Mendte has also at the forefront of another civic project - the worldwide celebration of Benjamin Franklin's 300th birthday. In addition to many special reports and public appearances at Ben events, Mendte wrote, hosted and produced the EmmyAward-winning Stealing Lightning from the Sky, a half hour documentary about Franklin that aired locally and in 22 additional markets across the country.

Before joining CBS 3 in July, 2003, Mendte was evening news anchor for WCAU-TV, the NBC station in Philadelphia. Mendte has also the main anchor anchored at the NBC station in Philadelphia. Previously, he co-hosted Access Hollywood, the daily half-hour entertainment news magazine produced by NBC in Los Angeles and was weekday anchor and investigative reporter at Chicago's WBBM-TV. While at WBBM, Mendte earned a record 27 Emmy Awards and was twice named "Best Reporter" in Illinois by the Associated Press. His series of reports on school bus safety in Chicago led to two new state laws. Prior to WBBM, Mendte was a main anchor for KFMB-TV in San Diego and a weekend anchor at WABC-TV in New York. In his free time, Mendte is active with a number of charities including The Alzheimer's Association, Autism Speaks and the juvenile Diabetes Foundation.

Raised in Lansdowne, Pennsylvania, Mendte graduated from Monsignor Bonner High School and has been inducted into the school's Hall of Fame. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications from West Chester University and has been awarded the school's distinguished alumni award and the President's medal for community service. Mendte and his wife, former Fox and CBS Anchor Dawn Stensland, have four children.

77th Annual Dinner Dance

Please join the Columbia Association of the New York City Fire Department celebrate its 77th Annual Scholarship Dinner Dance. As always your support in making this a special affair and a success is deeply appreciated.

The Columbia Association "2011 Man of the Year" William De Blasio Public Advocate City of New York

Our "Humanitarian Award" will be presented to Journalist Larry Mendte, Pix 11 Commentator

"Special recognition award" presented to Congressman Peter T. King Chairman of the Homeland Security Committee

And a presentation of our 2011 Scholarships.

Our 77th Annual Scholarship Dinner Dance will be held June 16, 2011 at:

RUSSO'S ON THE BAY
162-45 CROSS BAY BLVD.

Cocktails start 7:00 p.m. Dinner and dancing to follow. Donation of \$90 per person.

Spring Cigar Night

We held our Spring Cigar Night this year at Vetro Restaurant in Howard Beach. Once again we had a great turn out. We were treated to fine food and drink from the fairly new restaurant.

Vetro is owned by Frank Russo from the infamous Russo's on the Bay, so you know what that means. Russo's always is top notch and Mr. Russo stands by his businesses. We handed out several cigars at the door, most of which were supplied by our good friend Mauricio Cordoba from Club Macanudo. We also raffled off many door prizes and enjoyed our cigars on the upper bar of the restaurant.

I would like to thank all that attended and for those of you that didn't, you don't know what you're missing. Hope to see you at our next Cigar Party.

Columbia Association's Summer Vacation in the Catskills



AUGUST 16TH - 19TH • Contact Joe Smithwick for more information





Congressman Peter T. King, a Republican, is serving his tenth term in the U.S. House of Representatives.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD

Presented to Congressman **PETER T. KING**

Chairman of the Homeland Security Committee

Rep. King is Chairman of the Homeland Security Committee and also serves on the Financial Services Committee and Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. Congressman King has been a leader in the ongoing effort to have Homeland Security funding based on threat analysis and is a strong supporter of the war against international terrorism, both at home and abroad. As Chairman of the Homeland Security Committee he brought about vital legislation regarding port security and chemical plant security. He has led the effort to restore funding to the Secure the Cities Program to protect the New York-Long Island region from nuclear dirty bomb attacks.

Rep. King is a strong supporter of our military and has fought hard to bring veterans' benefits into the 21st century. Congressman King has been a consistent leader in the fight against illegal immigration and a strong supporter of funding to combat deadly illnesses such as breast cancer and prostate cancer. He has also received the AARP's Legislative Leadership Award for combating elder abuse and exploitation.

During his years in Congress, Rep. King has attained a reputation for being well-informed and independent. The New York Daily News has said that "Pete King is as knowledgeable as they come about terrorism and the need for emergency preparedness," while the New York Post has credited Rep. King as being "smart and solid and a long time student of terrorism and homeland security matters." Even Newsday has admitted that Congressman King is a "stand-up guy who isn't shy about tangling with the powerful, even those in his own party. King has become a national figure who delivers for the region and his district."

Prior to serving in Congress, Pete King was elected to three terms as the Comptroller of Nassau County. Before serving in county government, Rep. King had extensive experience as a practicing attorney and civic leader. He began his political career in November 1977 by winning election to the Hempstead Town Council.

Peter T. King was born on April 5, 1944 and is a graduate of St. Francis College, Brooklyn, and the University of Notre Dame Law School. He is a lifelong resident of New York and has lived in Nassau County for more than 40 years. Rep. King and his wife, Rosemary, reside in Seaford. They have two adult children and two grandchildren.

A Letter From the President

I hope everyone is getting ready for the summer. We have a few trips and events set up each month, so please join us and have a great time. First, we start off with our annual Dinner Dance in June at the fabulous Russo's on the Bay. Each year is a sell out and this year won't be any different. Our honorees are Public Advocate- Bill DiBlasio, Newscaster- Larry Mendte and Representative- Peter King. As usual, we are looking forward to a spectacular event as only Russo's can hold. Bring your appetite and your dancing shoes. Please contact Craig or our web-site for more information.

We have 2 trips set up for the summer. First, we will be going to Hershey Park in July. Tickets are marked down and the hotel is pretty inexpensive. See our ad in the paper, go to our web-site or contact Sal Belmonte for more information. The park passes are good all summer long, so if you can't go with us, you can still receive the savings. Next, we will be going to Villa Roma in August for some fun in the sun (before the kids go back to school). Its a mid-week trip with breakfast and dinner included. They have many out door activities including bocce, tennis, golf course and 3 large swimming pools for your enjoyment. Contact Joe Smithwick for more information.

At the end of August, New York City will be hosting the World Police/Fire games. These events will be held through out the city. There will be thousands of police and firefighters from around the world attending. If you would like to participate or lend a hand, please contact John Signorile and he can lead you in the right direction.

As mentioned before in previous letters, we are trying to go green. We are trying to get as many members to sign up on line and cut down our mailing costs. We would rather cut down the mailings then cut down the meetings or raise dues. We haven't raised the cost of dues in over 15 years, so please try to help us out. We are also trying to increase our membership numbers, in the past few years our numbers have been declining. I know we haven't had any probies in awhile but our numbers should still be up. If you know someone from your firehouse or a friend who isn't a member, please encourage them to join, it is a sign of being proud to be Italian. Thank you and have a wonderful summer.

Stay Safe,
Keith Tanico
President, Columbia Association, FDNY



Credit Score Means...

DID you know that you could get hit with an extra \$5,000 in interest payments on a \$20,000, five year car loan because you didn't treat your credit score with the utmost care?

The sad truth is many consumers still don't understand how their credit score works, according to a survey (creditscorequiz.org)

Credit scores aren't about your ability to pay the loan, but about the risk of you not paying the loan. Your income could be high and your dept outstanding more than manageable to easily assume that \$20,000 car loan, but if your track record of paying bills on time is far from stellar, that makes you a credit risk.

The strength of your credit score depends on the scale used. A FICO 700 is great because FICO scores run from 300- 850. But 700 on a Vantage Score, which runs from 501-990, would not be good.

Age and Marital status aren't calculated into your score, but the length of time you've had a score is. If you were 30 and you've spent a few years accumulating an excellent score, then you are as good as the 45 year old who has done the same.

Your credit is not one tidy score, but many different scores that are either generic or leader based. To make matters worse, different lenders look at different scores when making decisions.

Liens, foreclosures, short sales and bankruptcies can wreak havoc on your credit score. These can wipe out 100-300 points. But you can recover from a lien or poor on time payments in about nine months of good performance. Foreclosures, short sales or bankruptcies, however will, haunt you for years. Keep an eye on your bills and pay them on-time.

COLUMBIA ASSOCIATION visits HERSHEY PARK

DESIGN A VACATION TO MAXIMIZE YOUR ENJOYMENT OF THE AREA

1. HOTEL & HERSHEY PARK PASS COMBINATION
2. HOTEL ONLY
3. HERSHEY PARK PASS ONLY*

*THE PARK PASS IS GOOD FOR ANY DATE DURING THEIR SUMMER SEASON (May - August.)
Call Park for details about their night before park preview and exact dates.

DATES: Wednesday July 20, 2011 to Sunday July 24, 2011

LODGING: FOUR POINTS SHERATON Harrisburg, PA phone (717) 561-2800
Hotel price is \$133 per room/per night. Check in 3pm

HERSHEY PARK: PAY ONE PRICE PARK PASS (DAILY) (Food & parking not included)
Admits Holder to all attractions for the day.

NAME	
ADDRESS	
CITY	STATE
ZIP	PHONE: () -
E-Mail	

Worksheet

1. Calculate Rooms and Tickets needed

	# of		# of passes		
	ROOMS		Kids (3-8)	Adults (9-54)	Senior (55-69)
Wednesday					
Thursday					
Friday					
Saturday					
Sunday	XXXXX				
Totals					

2. Calculate the PRICE:

		TOTALS	
133	x (# of Rooms	_____) =	_____
\$36	x (# of Adult Passes	_____) =	_____
\$28	x (# of Kid Passes	_____) =	_____
\$28	x (# of Senior Passes	_____) =	_____
		_____) =	_____
\$5	Park passes mailed to you		_____
		TOTAL	= _____

We sold out last year so
First Come First Serve
ALL WELCOME

No refunds after June 19

Payment in **FULL** due: **June 19, 2011** Make Checks Payable to: "Columbia Association"
Mail to: Sal Belmonte 1616 Stevens Ave. Merrick, NY 11566 - Phone (516) 233-8142

(proceeds benefit Columbia Association Scholarships)

New

Columbia Association T-Shirts

CONTACT JOE DEPALO (845) 558-4410

OR GO TO WWW.FDNYCOLUMBIA.COM



Reflections of Italy

Highlights...Rome, Colosseum, Assisi, Perugia, Siena, Florence, Chianti Winery, Venice, Murano Island, Lugano, Switzerland, Como



\$2,899 Double Occupancy (per person)
\$3,399 Single, \$2,869 Triple
November 2nd -11th, 2011

Includes: Hotel transfers, round trip airfare from JFK International Airport

Not Included in Price: Cancellation waiver and insurance of \$200 per person, air taxes and fees/surcharges of \$150 (subject to increase until paid in full)

Fore more info contact Joe Smithwick, NYC Fire Dept. Columbia Association, (516) 662-3699.

Your Itinerary at a Glance

Day 1	Overnight flight
Day 2, 3	Hotel Diana Roma, Rome or Mediterraneo Hotel, Rome
Day 4	Sangallo Palace Hotel, Perugia
Day 5, 6	Star Hotel Michaelangelo, Florence or Mediterraneo Grand Hotel, Florence
Day 7, 8	Hotel Ai Mori D Oriente, Venice or Hotel Papadopoli, Venice
Day 9	Crowne Plaza Malpensa, Malpensa

I found this on the wall at the Rock. It was typed with an old firehouse manual typewriter and had been copied numerous times. It still holds true today.

WHAT DOES A FATHER SAY TO HIS SON BEFORE HIS FIRST GAME?

This is your first game, son.
 I hope you win.
 I hope you win for your sake not mine.
 Because winning's nice.
 It's a good feeling...
 Like the whole world is yours.
 But it passes, this feeling.
 And what lasts is what you've learned.

And what you learn about is life.
 That's what sports is all about.
 Life.
 The whole thing is played out in an afternoon.
 The happiness of life.
 The miseries.
 The joys.
 The heartbreaks.

There's no telling what'll turn up.
 There's no telling whether they'll toss you out in the first five minutes or whether you'll stay for the long haul.

There's no telling how you'll do.
 You might be a hero or you might be absolutely nothing.
 There's just no telling.
 Too much depends on chance.
 On how the ball bounces.

I'm not talking about the game, son.
 I'm talking about life.
 But it's life that the game is all about.
 Just as I said.

Because every game is life.
 And life is a game.
 A serious one.
 Dead serious.

But that's what you do with serious things.
 You do your best.
 You take what comes.
 You take what comes and you run with it.

Winning is fun.
 Sure.
 But winning is not the point.

Wanting to win is the point.
 Not giving up is the point.
 Never being satisfied with what you've done is the point.
 Never letting up is the point.
 Never letting anyone down is the point.

Play to win.
 Sure.
 But lose like a champion.
 Because it's not winning that counts.
 What counts is trying.

Columbia Association
 Fire Department City of New York

6th ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP GOLF OUTING

September 26-27
2 Rounds of Golf
 at the
Hudson Valley Resort and Spa
 (formerly The Granit)

\$175

Do not have to be a member to attend
CHECK IN: Check in AFTER GOLF on Monday
TIME: MONDAY Sept. 26 tee off in order of arrival
 TUESDAY Sept 27 9:00 am Shotgun Start
PRICE: \$175 PER PERSON

INCLUDES: GOLF, CART, ROOM, COCKTAIL HOUR, DINNER and BREAKFAST.
 Any extra golf you will have to pay for cart only. Monday you can play extra for price of a cart.
 **PLEASE HAVE CHECKS IN ASAP ** Foursomes going fast

Make Checks Payable to:
COLUMBIA ASSOCIATION.

Mail to:
 JOSEPH SMITHWICK
 20 PIPER LANE
 LEVITTOWN, NY, 11756
 (516) 796-0975

PLEASE SEND MEMBERS IN FOURSOME AND ROOMING ASSIGNMENTS WITH PAYMENT



10th Annual Chief Jerry Barbara Night



with the Staten Island Yankees
Vs. Connecticut Tigers

Friday, July 8th, 2011 at 7:00 pm
Richmond County Bank Ballpark



- Spectacular pre-game fireboat display and post game fireworks show.
- FREE Limited Edition Staten Island Yankees cap for each member of your group.
- All kids 12 & under can run the bases for FREE after the game.
- 50% of all proceeds from the raffle tickets sold by The Chief Jerry Barbara Scholarship Fund during the game will be raffled off to one lucky fan.
- This special evening will include a ceremonial first pitch by Chief Barbara's daughter & son.
- Your groups name will appear on our High-Def LED Re-Play board.



Only 475 tickets will be available and this game will sell out. Please respect the deadline and make sure you don't get shut out this year!



Staten Island Yankees

75 Richmond Terr • St. NY 10301 (718) 313-1320
fax (718) 273-5763 • www.slyanks.com

RESERVE YOUR TICKETS; DEADLINE TO ORDER IS JUNE 6, 2011

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____ Email: _____
 # of tickets: _____ @ \$14 each = Total Amount: \$ _____

RESERVE YOUR SHIRTS; DEADLINE TO ORDER IS JUNE 6, 2011

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____ Email: _____
 # of YOUTH T-Shirts: _____ @ \$10 Sizes: S ___ M ___ L ___
 # of ADULT T-Shirts: _____ @ \$13 Sizes: S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ Other ___
 # of LADIES T-Shirts: _____ @ \$13 Sizes: S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___
 # of Golf Shirts: _____ @ \$17 Sizes: S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ Other ___
Shirts must be ordered prior to the game & will not be available for purchase at the game.

TO RESERVE YOUR TICKETS & SHIRTS: PLEASE RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM & PAYMENT TO:

FDNY Chief Jerry Barbara Scholarship Fund - 117 Hartford Avenue • Staten Island, NY 10310 • Phone: (718) 720-7944 or
Please visit: www.jerryslegacy.org for tickets or shirts.



THE MEDICAL CORNER

Hello and welcome to this featured column of "La Sotto Voce" designed to share information regarding your health for you and your families.

Mediterranean Diet Associated with Slowing Metabolic Syndrome

Researchers have found that a diet high in mono-unsaturated fatty acids, vegetables, fruits, whole grains and low - or non-fat dairy products, along with fish, poultry, nuts, legumes and little red meat is associated with a lower prevalence and slower progression of metabolic syndrome. The research, published in March 15th issue of the Journal of the American college of Cardiology, found that the so-called Mediterranean-style diet had positive effects on components of metabolic syndrome such as blood pressure, waist size and triglycerides.

Once again, if you follow your ancestors' Mediterranean Diet along with exercise, you will have less of the "big middle" - or Metabolic Syndrome problem.

Sugar-Sweetened Drinks Associated with Hypertension Drinking sodas, sweetened fruit juices and sports and energy drinks may contribute to higher blood pressure, according to a study reported in the Feb. 28 issue of Hypertension: Journal of the American Heart Association. Researchers found that for every sugar-sweetened beverage drunk per day, study participants saw their systolic blood pressure rise by an average of 1.6 mm Hg and diastolic pressure go up by 0.8 mm Hg. The results were significant even when researchers adjusted for differences in body mass among study participants. Sugar consumption is also linked to an increase in uric acid in the blood, which lowers levels of nitric oxide needed to dilate blood vessels. Water is still the best choice vs. empty calories of sugar-sweetened drinks.

Boosting Potassium Intake May Help Cut Stroke Risk In an analysis of 11 major studies involving more than 240,000 participants during the past 30 years, researchers have determined that high dietary consumption of potassium is associated with lower rates of stroke and could reduce the risk of coronary heart disease. They study, published in the March 8th issue of the Journal of the American College of Cardiology, found that higher potassium intake equivalent to about three pieces of fruit high in potassium was associated with a 21 percent lower risk of stroke. Bananas are often cited as great sources of potassium, but plenty of other foods pack even more of the essential mineral. Other great food sources include broccoli, spinach, tomatoes, winter squash, yams, cantaloupe, eggplant, carrots and papaya. Many of these high potassium fruits are used in the Mediterranean Diet.

VASCULAR DIAGNOSTIC will give you answers to your current cardiac and vascular system as well as your fitness level and weight distribution (lean, fat and water), blood profile for cholesterol breakdown and glucose for diabetes. Our staff is made up of wonderful professionals that are particularly aware of the type of job FDNY members (active and retired) have or had. We make the experience as seamless as possible by combining the specialties of cardiology (stress test or nuclear stress test, echocardiography, Holter Monitor/24-hr EKG) and vascular (carotid arteries in neck area, abdominal aorta to evaluate for an aneurysm, blood vessels in the legs, or veins for a clot). The blood profile with a cardiovascular risk analysis and the body weight composition report are filled with information on your status and how to improve your risk factors. If you are interested in our reputation, ask another member of the FDNY. We are accomplishing these evaluations for 30 years. We always welcome your call.

**Let Vascular Diagnostic give you the answers.
Take control with information. Call (718) 886-0600.**

**The Medical corner provided by:
Vascular Diagnostic Associates, P.C., 41-61 Kissena Boulevard, Flushing Queens
Watch our 6 minute video on our website: www.vascularadiagnostic.com
We also have facebook.
Cardiovascular Imaging for FDNY members since 1981.**

Congratulations to Our 2011 Columbia Association Scholarship Award Winners

AWARD FOR COLLEGE

Gerard Barbara Scholarship

Award	Name	Member Unit
\$2800.00*	BRIAN	CHARLES LAMBERTA, BATT 45
\$1500.00	MICHAEL	MARTIN SCIALPI, E275

GINO CUCCO SCHOLARSHIP

\$2000.00	MEAGAN	JAMES KOETH, RETIRED
\$2000.00	NICOLE	MICHAEL SACCOMANNO, E88

The 2011 Memorial College Scholarship award winner will be chosen at the Dinner Dance (\$1000.00)

AWARD FOR HIGH SCHOOL

International Columbia Association Scholarship

Award	Name	Member Unit
\$1600.00	** MARK	VINCENT MANDALA, DIV 11
\$1300.00	ANNALISA	JOHN DIODATO, L172

ALICE SULLIVAN SCHOLARSHIP

\$1200.00	NICHOLAS	JEROME MANDALA, RETIRED
\$1300.00	JULLIAN	JOHN BALDASSARRE, L9

TRIOLA FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP

\$1000.00	MICHAEL	MICHAEL BARRON L148
\$1000.00	EMILY	MICHAEL BARRON L148

Each award to be presented at the 2011 Scholarship Dinner Dance on June 16, 2011

*Highest SAT score (Rosina Higgins/Edward Scott Schettino Award)
**Highest STS Score (Marcello-Murphy Award)

Retirees' Corner

by John Signorile

Most firefighters who consult with us are unaware that Social Security Disability must be established within a specific period of time. Your eligibility for Social Security Disability benefits may be directly affected by your employment and retirement. Social Security disability eligibility is based upon (FICA) contributions to Social Security made by the City during your employment. These contributions generally cease upon your retirement. When you stop making contributions to Social Security, a clock starts ticking on the time you have left to establish disability... For this reason, your individual eligibility for social security disability benefits is based upon your personal earnings history, contributions and retirement date and is unique to you. You cannot rely upon "kitchen" talk or another Firefighter's experience when planning your application, determining your eligibility or amount of benefits.

Social Security Disability entitlements can now exceed \$900.00 a week in income to you and your family. Unlike an accident disability pension, Social Security Disability has meaningful Cost of Living Adjustments ("COLA"). Social Security Income is not reduced by any pension, passive or spousal income. Unfortunately, the Social Security Disability application process can often take several years, and thus, it is important to begin the process as quickly as possible, and do so with great care and attention. Poorly handled claims and equivocal medical evidence are likely to waste away valuable time and result in the denial of your claim.

As part of their services, the law firm of Ungaro & Cifuni give free consultations and invite inquires at their offices. The firm may be contacted directly at (212) 766-5800. They are paid only upon a successful result. Given the immense financial value of the benefit and the improved chance of success, it is prudent to consult with an attorney whether or not you ultimately decide to use one. Be sure to mention that you read this article and hope everyone enjoys the summer.





LA SOTTO VOCE

The Official Newsletter of the *Columbia Association*

Fire Department, City of New York
14 Ivanhoe Drive
Merrick, NY 11566

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
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PERMIT # 1
BETHPAGE, NY

LA SOTTO VOCE

The Newsletter of the FDNY

Columbia Association

La Sotto Voce is published
four times annually.

What does the word DUES mean above your name on your address label mean?

We are updating our Membership program. One of our new features includes a Membership history located directly above your name on your address label. Please check the label. The numbers above your name indicate that we have not received your dues for that particular year. With any new system there are glitches. If your records vary with ours, please give us a call at (516) 303-4209. Our Financial Secretary Steve Forlenza will return your call.

Below indicates 2006 and 2008 dues have not been received.

DUES: 06 08

**Columbia Association
14 Ivanhoe Dr
Merrick, NY 11566**

SAMPLE

If you only see the word DUES above your name, this means you are up-to-date and no action is needed. We apologize for any confusion.

Columbia Association: Executive Board & Committee Members

Executive Board:

President	Keith Tanico	Division 13	917 337-7413
1st Vice President	Craig Silvano	Ladder 127	516 286-1796
2nd Vice President	Joseph Smithwick	Engine 303	516 662-3699
3rd Vice President	John Signorile	Ret-L126	516 782-5343
Treasurer	Teddy Forlenza	Division 1	718 213-7499
Financial Secretary	Stephen Forlenza	Division 8	347 266-8781
Recording Secretary	Sal Belmonte	Ladder 102	516 233-8142
Sergeant-At-Arms	Steve Lubrino	Ladder 162	631 300-5772
Manhattan Trustee	Joseph Triolo	Ladder 6	718 751-6731
Queens Trustee	Sal Mirra	Ladder 138	516 322-7588
Staten Island Trustee	Ignazio Venezia	Engine 282	917 682-7991
Brooklyn Trustee	Phil LaRocco	Ladder 148	347 884-1169
Bronx Trustee	Joseph DePaola	Ladder 27	845 558-4410
EMS Trustee	Grace Cacciola	Division 5	516 852-3318
Legal Advisor	Stuart Salles, Esq.		
Spiritual Advisor	Msgr. Marc Filacchione	Archdiocese of NY	

Committee Chairs:

Trips	Keith Tanico/Joe Smithwick
Membership	Joseph Smithwick
Dues	Steve Forlenza
Lottery	Sal Mirra
Parade	Joe Triolo
Good & Welfare	John Signorile
Scholarship/Dinner Dance	Craig Silvano
Hershey Park Trip	Sal Belmonte
Dinner Journal	Grace Cacciola
Editor	Craig Silvano

❖ Visit our website: www.fdnycolumbia.com

❖ E-mail the Columbia Association: keith@fdnycolumbia.com

❖ Columbia Association Hotline: (516) 303-4209

2011 Columbia Association Borough Meetings

Brooklyn
Jan 11, 2011 & June 14, 2011
VFW Post, 2414 Geritsen Ave.

Queens
Feb 8, 2011 & Sep 13, 2011
VFW Post 19-12 149th St
(between 19th & 20th Ave)
Whitestone NY 11357
(718) 746-0540

Staten Island
Mar 8, 2011 & Oct 11, 2011
Hillside Swim Club
151 Signs Rd.

Bronx
Apr 12, 2011 & Nov 8, 2011
Guiding Star Council Hall
3243 Ampere Ave.

Long Island
May 10, 2011
American Legion
250 Franklin Ave
Malverne LI

2011 Christmas Party
To Be Announced

